Appl. No. 10/713,369
Amdt. dated Jan 28, 2005
Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of Jan. 23, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for managing an infrastructure comprising:

a computer;

a user interface communicably coupled to the computer;

a database communicably coupled to the computer, the database containing two or more records, each record having a unique identifier and one or more data fields representing attributes of an asset or asset related item within the infrastructure, and all the records are linked to one another in a closed-loop hierarchical manner in accordance with one or more business rules of the infrastructure that define how the assets and asset related items are interconnected and how one or more users use the assets and asset related items; and

a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium that is executed by the computer to manage the infrastructure using the database.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more data fields further represent attributes of a sub-element for one or more assets.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the attributes include an asset name, manufacturer name, make, model number, serial number, description, purchase date, expiration date, purchase cost or operating characteristics.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the asset related items include places, connections, contracts, documentation or financials.

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Claim 5 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein the places include physical sites or locations.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 4, wherein the connections include electrical connections, physical connections, logical connections, communication links, interfaces, junctions, circuits or patch panels.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The apparatus as recited in claim [[4]] 1, wherein the asset related items comprise one or more contracts that include leases, title documents, maintenance contracts, license agreements, clients contracts, resource allocation or service-level agreements.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The apparatus as recited in claim [[4]] 1, wherein the asset related items comprise documentation that includes support documents, maintenance schedules, procedural documentation, operational documentation or policy documentation.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The apparatus as recited in claim [[4]] 1, wherein the asset related items comprise one or more financials that include purchase records, repair records, warranties, operational costs, charge-backs or down-time costs.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein each record includes life cycle information about the asset or asset related item.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more business rules of the infrastructure also define how the assets and asset related items are interconnected or how one or more users use the assets and asset related items or how

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one or more users use the information stored in the one or more data fields associated with the assets and asset related items.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for managing an infrastructure comprising the steps of:

providing a database containing two or more records, each record having a unique identifier and one or more data fields representing attributes of an asset or asset related item within the infrastructure, and all the records are linked to one another in a closed-loop hierarchical manner in accordance with one or more business rules of the infrastructure that define how the assets and asset related items are interconnected and how one or more users use the assets and asset related items;

processing one or more user requests to display or report information stored in the database; and

updating the database as assets or asset related items are procured, implemented, changed or disposed.

Claim 13 (original): The method as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of creating the database.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the step of creating the database comprises the steps of:

identifying one or more boundaries for the infrastructure;

identifying the assets within the boundaries;

identifying the items related to the assets;

identifying one or more users of the assets and asset related item;

determining the attributes associated with each asset and asset related item;

determining the business rules of the infrastructure that define for how the assets and related items are linked together interconnected and how one or more users use the assets and asset related items; and

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creating each record and storing the record in the database in a closed-loop
hierarchical manner in accordance with the business rules.

Claim 15 (original): The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
determining one or more sub-elements for the assets and one or more attributes
associated with the sub-elements; and
determining one or more business rules for how the sub-elements and assets are
linked together.

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (original): The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of
identifying one or more people who use information about the asset.

Claim 18 (original): The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of
designing data display and report formats.

Claim 19 (original): The method as recited in claim 14, further comprising the steps of:
identifying a managing agency; and
determining one or more goals for the managing agency.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A computer program embodied on a computer readable
medium for managing an infrastructure, the computer program comprising:
a code segment for providing a database containing two or more records, each
record having a unique identifier and one or more data fields representing attributes of an
asset or asset related item within the infrastructure, and all the records are linked to one
another in a closed-loop hierarchical manner in accordance with one or more business
rules of the infrastructure that define how the assets and asset related items are
interconnected and how one or more users use the assets and asset related items;

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a code segment for processing one or more user requests to display or report information stored in the database; and

a code segment for updating the database as assets or asset related items are procured, implemented, changed or disposed.

Claim 21 (new): The apparatus as recited in claim 10, wherein the life cycle information includes procurement, usage, modification, decommission and salvage information.